

# INTRODUCTION OF THE BRINGING REGULATORY ADVANCES INTO NEUROSCIENCE (BRAIN) ACT OF 2021

## HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 30, 2021

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce the Bringing Regulatory Advances into Neuroscience (BRAIN) Act of 2021.

Today, brain and central nervous system (CNS) disorders account for an incredible burden both on individual patients and their families as well as the United States health care system. One in five adults in America—more than 50 million people—live with a mental illness while 20 million Americans suffer from a neurological condition. Brain diseases and disorders cost the U.S. more than \$1.5 trillion per year, a significant portion of which is paid for by the Medicare program. Seven of the 21 chronic conditions tracked by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) are related to the brain and this represents an average annual cost of \$23,325 per Medicare beneficiary, higher than the average cost for all other chronic conditions.

The BRAIN Act of 2021 would establish a Neuroscience Center of Excellence (NCOE) under the Food and Drug Administration. Modeled after the FDA's Oncology Center of Excellence, an NCOE would create opportunities for innovation in the development and regulation of treatments for brain diseases and disorders. By focusing on patients, it would ensure that investments in research are more likely to produce safe and effective treatments which would provide relief for those who have been waiting too long.

The blueprint for a center of excellence like this was included in a discussion draft of 21st Century Cures 2.0, circulated by my colleagues Representatives DEGETTE and UPTON. The draft legislation would require the FDA to create at least two new intercenter institutes, including one focusing on high prevalence and burdensome diseases like those affecting the brain and CNS.

It is clear that there is an enormous need to address these conditions and a Neuroscience Center of Excellence would make significant progress for people who have been suffering for far too long.

I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation.

## SAINT LOUIS COUNTY NAACP

## HON. CORI BUSH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 30, 2021

Ms. BUSH. Madam Speaker, the rich roots of advocacy, activism, and community organizing etched in the NAACP's history continue to reverberate through the countless lives you all have touched. I am deeply heartened at the opportunity to celebrate the Saint Louis County Chapter of NAACP on 84 years of service and leadership in our community. St. Louis has unquestionably been made better by the work that they all have committed themselves

to, and I am honored to be their representative.

The fight for justice for Black people has been one fraught with pain and strife, but that very pain produces a strength and resilience in each of us that gives us the courage to fight onward amidst the adversity. That resilience is beautifully evidenced in this chapter's work throughout St. Louis. As our office continues to do the most for all people starting with those that have the least, I am grateful to be in this struggle alongside them. I thank the Saint Louis County Chapter of NAACP for their commitment and extend congratulations on 84 strong years.

## HONORING DR. JESUS "JV" ROA FOR HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

## HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 30, 2021

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, I honor Dr. Jesus "JV" Roa. Dr. Roa is an emergency medicine physician serving Central Florida in the Orlando Regional Medical Center Emergency Department. As the COVID-19 pandemic has evolved, Dr. Roa has been at the forefront of the response. As the director of resident professional development and emergency medicine clerkship director for Orlando Health, Dr. Roa was instrumental in leading the hospital systems' clinical teams in the emergency room. His work involved inspiring team members through challenging days while working long, strenuous hours. Dr. Roa contributed to developing treatment options including the use of emerging therapies for COVID-19 patients. Dr. Roa and his physician colleagues made critical decisions that impacted staff safety and allowed providers to clinically assess and treat patients, as well as deliver outstanding care.

In addition to his work with Orlando Health, Dr. Roa serves as medical director of the Orlando Police Department SWAT team, volunteering his time to train with the team that takes on the most dangerous assignments to resolve critical incidents. Using his military and medical expertise, earned through 20 years of service in the United States Army Reserves combined with three years of active duty as a combat medic prior to medical school, Dr. Roa helps train officers in the use of advanced tactics and specialized equipment, so they are prepared to handle dangerous, high-risk situations.

Dr. Roa trained at the Chicago Medical School at Rosalind Franklin University and completed a residency in emergency medicine at Orlando Regional Medical Center. He is an assistant professor of emergency medicine at the University of Central Florida College of Medicine.

For this and more, we honor Dr. Jesus Roa.

## THOMAS VAN DER MOLEN, EAGLE SCOUT

## HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 30, 2021

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, last month, I had the pleasure of attending Thom-

as van der Molen's Eagle Court of Honor. For his Eagle Scout Project, Thomas designed and installed a paved walk path to connect the entrance to the gazebo with the community gardens. The red bricks that compose the walk path were all hand laid and will be enjoyed for years to come. This new walk path will greatly impact the accessibility of the community gardens for those who have mobility impairments and our elderly. Thomas was able to complete this project with the help of his troop, sponsorships from Home Depot and Atlantic Masonry, and his family. Thomas' dedication to this project will give more people the ability to access the gardens and he should be proud of his accomplishments. God Bless Thomas and God Bless America.

## IN RECOGNITION OF OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT OFFICIAL KATHLEEN M. MCGETTIGAN ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT

## HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 30, 2021

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Kathleen M. McGettigan on the occasion of her retirement after 30 years of federal service at the U.S. Office of Personnel Management.

Ms. McGettigan has dutifully performed in every role she has held at OPM, including as Chief Financial Officer, three separate Deputy Associate Director roles, and multiple appointments as Acting Director of the Agency. Ms. McGettigan holds the distinct honor of being OPM's longest serving Acting Director.

Ms. McGettigan consistently elevated OPM's work and mission throughout her career. She held herself to the highest standards and inspired those around her to do the same. Kathleen M. McGettigan's long and distinguished career exemplifies the very best of public service: dedication to country and commitment to serving the American people.

I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. McGettigan for her three decades of exemplary service.

## RECOGNIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF MAJOR GENERAL JANSON D. BOYLES AS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES

## HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 30, 2021

Mr. GUEST. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the appointment of Major General Janson D. Boyles as the Chairman of the National Guard Association of the United States. Major General Boyles has enjoyed a distinguished career with the National Guard since he was commissioned in the Reserve Officer Training Corps program at Mississippi State University in 1982.

General Boyles has displayed exceptional levels of leadership and competence in his service to our state and nation. In 2005, General Boyles managed the United States Army